women, but in recent times, there have been complaints that such dedicated women also indulge in prostitution to sustain themselves.

(c) and (d) The customary practice of dedication has been the phyenomenon of poverty particularly amoung the Scheduled Castes and backward classes to some extent. Lack of literacy and of control or access over productive resource (economic) has enfeebled such families and they continue to dedicate girls.

(e) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharasthra have enacted laws for the prohibition of Devdasi system. The commercial aspect of this practice attracts provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. This supplements the substantive laws against Kidnepping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls. Besides, these State Governments have initiated various economic rehabilitation measures.

15-Point Programme for Minorities in M.P.

† 1921. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any action for strengthening the 15-point programme for the welfare of minorities in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government to implement the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities in the country including minorities in Madhya Pradesh, is under revision.

(b) The implementation of the programme is done by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations and is closely monitored by the Central Government on the basis of the half yearly progress reports received from the State/UTs.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.